

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT Attorney Docket No. 18477-000120US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

on December 16, 2002.

Gary T. Aka

AL/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

J. Patel

Jonathan Kepecs

Art Unit:

Examiner:

2164

Application No.: 09/420,991

Filed: October 20, 1999

RESPONSE

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING AND RECONCILING

ELECTORNIC PROMOTIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 9, 2002, please enter the consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Of previously pending claims 1-26, 28-31, 33-41, 59-77, 79-82 and 84 89, all
were rejected. In the outstanding Office Action, the rejection of the claims in the previous Office
Action of January 3, 2002, was withdrawn and new grounds were raised for rejecting the
pending claims for obviousness.

Claims 1-16, 21-23, 26 and 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 4,882,675, which issued November 21, 1989 to S. Nichtberger *et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 5,970,469, which issued October 19, 1999 to M.C. Scroggie *et al.* In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner stated, "While, the Nichtberger patent discloses